

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 849

AN ACT

To provide for the conveyance of certain public land
in Clark County, Nevada, for use as a heliport.

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To provide for the conveyance of certain public land in Clark
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1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY TO CLARK COUN-**
2 **TY, NEVADA.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

4 (1) the Las Vegas Valley in the State of Ne-
5 vada is the fastest growing community in the United
6 States;

7 (2) helicopter tour operations are conflicting
8 with the needs of long-established residential com-
9 munities in the Valley; and

10 (3) the designation of a public heliport in the
11 Valley that would reduce conflicts between helicopter
12 tour operators and residential communities is in the
13 public interest.

14 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to provide
15 a suitable location for the establishment of a commercial
16 service heliport facility to serve the Las Vegas Valley in
17 the State of Nevada while minimizing and mitigating the
18 impact of air tours on the Sloan Canyon National Con-
19 servation Area and North McCullough Mountains Wilder-
20 ness.

21 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

22 (1) CONSERVATION AREA.—The term “Con-
23 servation Area” means the Sloan Canyon National
24 Conservation Area established by section 604(a) of
25 the Clark County Conservation of Public Land and
26 Natural Resources Act of 2002 (116 Stat. 2010).

1 (2) COUNTY.—The term “County” means Clark
2 County, Nevada.

3 (3) HELICOPTER TOUR.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “helicopter
5 tour” means a commercial helicopter tour oper-
6 ated for profit.

7 (B) EXCLUSION.—The term “helicopter
8 tour” does not include a helicopter tour that is
9 carried out to assist a Federal, State, or local
10 agency.

11 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
12 the Secretary of the Interior.

13 (5) WILDERNESS.—The term “Wilderness”
14 means the North McCullough Mountains Wilderness
15 established by section 202(a)(13) of the Clark Coun-
16 ty Conservation of Public Land and Natural Re-
17 sources Act of 2002 (116 Stat. 2000).

18 (d) CONVEYANCE.—As soon as practicable after the
19 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall convey
20 to the County, subject to valid existing rights, for no con-
21 sideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States
22 in and to the parcel of land described in subsection (e).

23 (e) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The parcel of land to
24 be conveyed under subsection (d) is the parcel of approxi-
25 mately 229 acres of land depicted as tract A on the map

1 entitled “Clark County Public Heliport Facility” and
2 dated May 3, 2004.

3 (f) USE OF LAND.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The parcel of land conveyed
5 under subsection (d)—

6 (A) shall be used by the County for the op-
7 eration of a heliport facility under the condi-
8 tions stated in paragraphs (2) and (3); and

9 (B) shall not be disposed of by the County.

10 (2) IMPOSITION OF FEES.—

11 (A) IN GENERAL.—Any operator of a heli-
12 copter tour originating from or concluding at
13 the parcel of land described in subsection (e)
14 shall pay to the Clark County Department of
15 Aviation a \$3 conservation fee for each pas-
16 senger on the helicopter tour if any portion of
17 the helicopter tour occurs over the Conservation
18 Area.

19 (B) DISPOSITION OF FUNDS.—Any
20 amounts collected under subparagraph (A) shall
21 be deposited in a special account in the Treas-
22 ury of the United States, which shall be avail-
23 able to the Secretary, without further appro-
24 priation, for the management of cultural, wild-

1 life, and wilderness resources on public land in
2 the State of Nevada.

3 (3) FLIGHT PATH.—Except for safety reasons,
4 any helicopter tour originating or concluding at the
5 parcel of land described in subsection (e) that flies
6 over the Conservation Area shall not fly—

7 (A) over any area in the Conservation Area
8 except the area that is between 3 and 5 miles
9 north of the latitude of the southernmost
10 boundary of the Conservation Area;

11 (B) lower than 1,000 feet over the eastern
12 segments of the boundary of the Conservation
13 Area; or

14 (C) lower than 500 feet over the western
15 segments of the boundary of the Conservation
16 Area.

17 (4) REVERSION.—If the County ceases to use
18 any of the land described in subsection (d) for the
19 purpose described in paragraph (1)(A) and under
20 the conditions stated in paragraphs (2) and (3)—

21 (A) title to the parcel shall revert to the
22 United States, at the option of the United
23 States; and

1 (B) the County shall be responsible for any
2 reclamation necessary to revert the parcel to
3 the United States.

4 (g) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The Secretary shall
5 require, as a condition of the conveyance under subsection
6 (d), that the County pay the administrative costs of the
7 conveyance, including survey costs and any other costs as-
8 sociated with the transfer of title.

Passed the House of Representatives May 23, 2005.

Attest:

Clerk.